



Fire Program Analysis – Preparedness Module

Date: March 23, 2004

Topic: Terminology Clarification (Escaped Fire)

Issue: There is a need to clarify our terminology for modeled fire events that exceed the limits established for optimization.

Background: The term “escaped fire” is currently used in FPA PM to describe individual “initial attack” modeled fire events where total fireline production by fire resources fails to equal or exceed total fire perimeter after 18 hours. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) defines an escaped fire as a “fire which has exceeded or is expected to exceed initial attack capabilities or prescription.” The use of the term “escaped fire” in FPA PM does not infer that the fire has exceeded or is expected to exceed initial attack capabilities and thus does not have the same meaning as the NWCG definition. To remedy this situation and any confusion that may result from using the same term for separate meanings, it is proposed that FPA PM discontinue the use of “escaped fire” and replace it with a more descriptive term.

Proposal: Currently we are attempting to model three fire management strategies; initial attack, Wildand Fire Use (WFU), and other Appropriate Management Responses (AMR) that are neither initial attack or WFU. Individual fire events optimized by the system would be termed either “successful” or “unsuccessful” compared to their individual initial response criteria described in the modeling effort. The new terms will apply to all of the management strategies used in the model, and each strategy will use different criteria to define success. These criteria for success are currently:

Initial Attack: Total fireline production by fire resources equals or exceeds total modeled fire perimeter at or before 18 hours.

Other AMR: Adequate fire resources to successfully manage the event within cost constraints.

WFU: Adequate fire resources to successfully manage the event within cost constraints.

Key Points: Recommend that FPA PM use the terms “successful” and “unsuccessful”. “Unsuccessful” will replace the term “escaped fire”.

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